

The Six Phases of A Pandemic

Interpandemic Period	Phase 1 Low risk of human cases	No new influenza virus subtypes have been detected in humans. An influenza virus subtype that has caused human infection may be present in animals. If present in animals, the risk of human infection or disease is considered to be low.
	Phase 2 Higher risk of human cases	No new influenza virus subtypes have been detected in humans. However, a circulating animal influenza virus subtype poses a substantial risk of human disease.
Pandemic Alert Period	Phase 3 No or very limited human-to-human transmission	Human infection(s) with a new subtype but no human-to-human spread, or at most rare instances of spread to a close contact.
	Phase 4 Evidence of increased human-to-human transmission	Small cluster(s) with limited human-to-human transmission but spread is highly localized, suggesting that the virus is not well adapted to humans.
	Phase 5 Evidence of significant human-to-human transmission	Larger cluster(s) but human-to-human spread still localized, suggesting that the virus is becoming increasingly better adapted to humans but may not yet be fully transmissible (substantial pandemic risk).
Pandemic Period	Phase 6 Evidence of sustained human-to-human transmission	Pandemic: increased and sustained transmission in general population.

Source: adapted from "Phase of Pandemic Alert" by WHO & "Stages of a Pandemic" by CDC

Which phase are we currently in?

We are currently in Phase 3, the beginning phase of the pandemic alert period.